

Department of Justice

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LODI COUNTERFEITERS INDICTED AND ARRESTED

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that on Thursday, February 5, 2009, a federal grand jury returned a 10-count indictment charging JOSEPH DEANDA, 48, TAMI KISHI DEANDA, 41, CLINTON EARL IRONS, 32, HOLLY ARMADA HAWORTH, 29, and SHELIE LOUISE RADOTIC, 30, all of Lodi, Calif., with conspiracy to counterfeit United States currency, and possession of counterfeit United States currency. In addition to the conspiracy and possession charges, JOSEPH DEANDA, KISHI DEANDA, and HAWORTH are charged with counterfeiting United States currency. DEANDA, IRONS, and RADOTIC are charged with attempted passing of counterfeit United States currency, and HAWORTH is charged with passing and counterfeit United States currency.

This case is the product of an extensive, joint investigation by the Lodi Police Department and the United States Secret Service. Lodi Police and Secret Service agents executed a series of arrest warrants Thursday arresting all of the at-large suspects.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Kyle Reardon, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that beginning January 7, 2004 until July 10, 2008 the defendants knowingly conspired to make and counterfeit United States currency.

In furtherance of the conspiracy, the defendants scanned, photographed, digitized, and possessed images of United States currency. They then used a computer and printer to print counterfeit images of \$100 bills onto \$5 bills that had been washed clean with various solvents, removing the ink from the bills, leaving behind the unique parchment upon which Federal Reserve Notes are printed. Also left behind were the security features imbedded in the original parchment that were unique to those notes, such as security strips and watermarks. As charged in the indictment, the defendants then possessed, passed, or attempted to pass many of these counterfeit bills at various times between January 2007 and June 2008.

If convicted of these offenses, the defendants face up to 20 years in prison. Each of the offenses carry a \$250,000 fine and up to three years of supervised release. However, the actual sentence will be dictated by the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of factors, and will be imposed at the discretion of the court.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.